

10. (AMENDED) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

returning a portion of the expelled blood to another portion of the pump assist system and thereby performing a rinsing function.

13 1/2. (AMENDED) A method of supplementing the blood flow from the heart of a patient using a pump assist system, the method comprising:

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directing a first conduit into the left side of the heart,

coupling a second conduit in fluid communication with a superficial artery of the patient,

connecting a pump between the first and second conduits,

implanting the pump in a superficial, subcutaneous chest region of the patient,

suctioning blood from the left side of the heart through the first conduit and into the pump, and

expelling the blood from the pump into the second conduit and the superficial artery.

14 1/2. (AMENDED) A system for supplementing blood flow from the heart of a patient, the system comprising:

a first conduit configured to be directed transeptally into the left side of the heart,

a second conduit configured to be coupled for fluid communication
with a superficial artery of the patient,
a third conduit,
a fourth conduit,
a pump configured to be superficially implanted within the patient and
connected with the first and second conduits to suction blood from the first conduit
and expel blood into the second conduit, and
a second pump connected with the first pump and operatively coupled
to the third and fourth conduits for suctioning blood from the third conduit and
expelling the blood into the fourth conduit.

Please cancel claims 13-17 without prejudice or disclaimer.

~~10~~ 18. (AMENDED) A system for supplementing blood flow from the heart of a
patient, the system comprising:

a first conduit configured to be directed into the left side of the heart,
a second conduit configured to be coupled for fluid communication
with an artery of the patient,
a pump configured to be implanted within the patient and connected
with the first and second conduits to suction blood from the first conduit and expel
blood into the second conduit, and

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cont

a return conduit coupled with an outlet of said pump and another portion of said system for returning a portion of blood expelled by said pump from the return conduit to said other portion of said system.

Please cancel claim 19 without prejudice or disclaimer.

14 ~~20~~¹³. (NEW) The method of claim ~~11~~¹³, wherein the step of directing a first conduit into the left side of the heart further comprises:

directing the first conduit into a superficial vein and transeptally through the heart.

19 ~~21~~¹³. (NEW) The method of claim ~~11~~¹³, wherein the first conduit is introduced into the left side of the heart through the axillary vein of the patient.

~~22~~²⁰. (NEW) The method of claim ~~21~~¹⁹, further comprising:
directing a third conduit into the axillary vein,
directing a fourth conduit into the axillary vein, and
pumping blood from the third conduit to the fourth conduit and into the right side of the heart to bypass an obstruction formed by the first conduit.

~~23~~¹⁶. (NEW) The method of claim ~~11~~¹³, wherein the second conduit is directed into the axillary artery of the patient.

15/24. (NEW) The method of claim 14, wherein the first conduit includes first and second branches with the first branch communicating with the left side of the heart and the second branch fluidly communicating with the superficial vein, and the suctioning step further comprises suctioning blood from the left side of the heart through the first branch and suctioning blood from the superficial vein through the second branch, and the expelling step further comprises expelling the blood from the first and second branches into the second conduit.

17/25. (NEW) The method of claim 13 further comprising: returning a portion of the expelled blood to the pump before the portion of expelled blood reaches the superficial artery.

18/26. (NEW) The method of claim 13 further comprising: returning a portion of the expelled blood to another portion of the pump assist system to perform a rinsing function.